


IDAHO NEWS RELEASE

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Spring Wheat and Barley Acreage Decrease from 2004

Idaho's spring wheat seedings, at 470,000 acres, are down 6 percent from the 500,000 acres planted in 2004, according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. Harvested acreage is set at 450,000 acres, a decrease of 40,000 acres from last year. Winter wheat seedings of 770,000 acres increased 3 percent from the previous year. Harvested acres are expected to total 730,000 acres, up 30,000 acres from 2004. Area planted to durum wheat totaled 25,000 acres, with 24,000 acres expected to be harvested for grain. This is the first year that durum wheat has been estimated for Idaho. Barley acreage planted is estimated at 630,000 acres, 7 percent less than last year's 680,000 acres. This is the least barley planted in Idaho since 1968. Harvested acreage is expected to total 610,000, down from 650,000 acres harvested in 2004. Acres seeded to oats total 90,000, unchanged from last year. Acres harvested for grain are estimated at 20,000, also the same as 2004. The area planted to corn, at 220,000 acres, is down 10,000 acres from last year's record high. Corn to be harvested for grain is forecast at 55,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from 2004. Planted acreage of sugarbeets is estimated at 168,000 acres, down 14 percent from the 195,000 acres planted in 2004. This is the lowest sugarbeet acreage in Idaho since 1988. Acres of sugarbeets for harvest are expected to total 167,000, a decrease of 25,000 acres from last year. Dry bean planted acreage is up 25 percent to 100,000 acres planted and 98,000 acres expected to be harvested. Estimates for dry bean acreage include garbanzo beans, which are grown primarily in North Idaho. Idaho farmers and ranchers are expected to harvest 1,480,000 acres of all hay, unchanged from last year. Alfalfa hay harvested is at 1,180,000 acres and other hay is estimated at 300,000 harvested acres, both unchanged from 2004.

For the U.S., winter wheat seeded area is 41.4 million acres, 4 percent below last year. Expected area harvested for grain is 34.3 million acres, down 1 percent from 2004. Other spring wheat seedings total 14.1 million acres, up 2 percent from 2004. Growers intend to harvest 13.6 million acres for grain, up 4 percent from last year. Barley seedings last fall and this spring total 3.97 million acres, down 12 percent from the 4.53 million acres seeded a year ago, and the lowest since barley planted acreage estimates began in 1926. The area to be harvested for grain is expected to total 3.47 million acres, 14 percent less than last year, and the lowest since 1890. Oats planted last fall and this spring total 4.34 million acres, 6 percent more than last year. Growers intend to harvest 1.98 million acres of oats for grain in 2005, up 10 percent from 2004. Corn planted area is estimated at 81.6 million acres, up 1 percent from 2004. Growers expect to harvest 74.4 million acres for grain, up 1 percent from 2004. Area planted to sugarbeets totaled 1.28 million acres, down 5 percent from 2004. Harvested area is forecast at 1.26 million acres, down 4 percent from 2004. Dry bean planted acreage, at 1.67 million acres, is up 24 percent from last year. Acres to be harvested are forecast at 1.57 million, up 29 percent from 2004. Producers expect to harvest 61.7 million acres of all hay in 2005, down fractionally from 2004. Alfalfa hay harvested acreage is estimated at 22.1 million acres, up 2 percent from last year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507